



Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

BULLETIN

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Quarterly Bulletin

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. People of any age and background are welcome as members.

For more information, visit our website <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au>; email info@tasfieldnats.org.au; write to GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001; or phone our president, Janet Fenton, on (03) 6239 6443.

Program

General Meetings start at 7:45pm on the first Thursday of the month, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania.

Outings are held the following Saturday or Sunday, meeting at 9.00am outside the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Macquarie Street. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear.

If you are planning to attend an outing, but have not been to the prior meeting, please confirm the details, as late changes are sometimes made.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Thu, 6 Nov | Meeting 7.45pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. Our speaker will be Lynne Forster on <i>Webs, Mandibles and Capsules - Beetles and Spiders of Mount Wellington</i> . |
| Sat, 8 Nov | Excursion from the end of Pottery Rd, Lenah Valley, with beetles and spiders as the main theme; to be led by Lynne Forster. Rendezvous details will be decided at the Thursday meeting; phone Anna McEldowney on 6239 6326 if in doubt. |
| Thu, 4 Dec | Meeting 7.45pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. As this is the last meeting for the year, it will be Member's Night and various members will give short presentations on recent events and topics of interest. We will finish-up with an end-of-year supper; bring a plate if you can. |
| Sat, 6 Dec | Christmas Barbeque at Niel Klaer's property off New Road, Franklin. Details at prior meeting. |
| January | No meeting or excursion in January. |
| Thu, 5 Feb | Meeting 7.45pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. <i>Paddy Dalton</i> will speak on bryophytes - mosses and liverworts. |
| 7 or 8 Feb | Excursion , to be advised. |
| Thu, 5 Mar | Meeting and AGM at 7.45pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. Before the AGM it is customary to have a President's address; this year Janet Fenton will present ' <i>Solar eclipse expedition to Port Davey in 1910</i> '. |
| 7 or 8 Mar | Excursion led by Paddy Dalton to Dalco Creek, near Lady Bay in southern Tasmania. |

Eric Guiler — Obituary

- by Janet Fenton

Dr Eric Guiler, well known vertebrate zoologist and past president of the TFNC, died on 3rd July 2008 after a long illness following a severe stroke.

Eric Guiler had worked under Professor TT Flynn at Queen's University, Belfast. Flynn had retreated to Belfast after a funding cut reduced his position at the University of Tasmania from professor to lecturer. Guiler, no doubt inspired by the theatrical Flynn's tales of Tasmanian marsupials, followed in Flynn's footsteps, taking up a post at the University of Tasmania in 1947. Guiler completed one of this university's first PhDs in Zoology. He went on to become an early researcher into the Tasmanian Devil, and a leading researcher on the Thylacine, publishing two popular books on the subject.

Many of us well remember the twinkle in his eye and the Irish humour of his conversations and lecture deliveries, along with his passion for marsupials and cetaceans. Guiler retired from teaching in 1983. The University offers three wildlife scholarships (supporting Tasmanian Devil research) in his honour.

During the 1950s Guiler was an enthusiastic member of the TFNC, serving on the committee, including serving as president in 1952 and 1953.

*Eric Guiler setting off to sea on a TFNC excursion.
Also pictured are Rhona Warren and two boys, one
identified as Rod Hewer. (Photo: Alan Hewer)*



Azure Kingfisher — sightings wanted

- Mark Wapstra

I am currently compiling information on the azure kingfisher in Tasmania to produce a profile of the species for the Threatened Species Section (Department of Primary Industries & Water). There is virtually no published information on the species in Tasmania beyond anecdotal sightings in newsletters and annual publications. Formal database information is also scant and imprecise. I'm keen to hear from anyone who has information on the azure kingfisher. I'm after location information (ideally a precise grid reference or latitude/longitude but even a river name or road crossing is very useful), dates seen (again, ideally as precise as possible but even a year gives a good picture of historical shifts in distribution) and abundance/behaviour (i.e. how many, and what were they doing, especially if they were breeding). I'm also happy to be put in contact with others who might have information.

Please contact Mark Wapstra on (03) 62 283 220 (after hours and business hours) or 0407 008 685 (mobile) or mark@ecotas.com.au.

Orchid Monitoring Talk

Fiona Coates, Threatened Flora Program Manager at Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research in Victoria will present

'Monitoring to the Max: getting the most from your orchid data'

10am Sunday, 2 November 2008
Riverview Room, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
Refreshments provided.

Threatened flora recovery plans all require 'monitoring', but often we don't really know why or how to do this. Fiona has been involved in several long-term orchid monitoring projects in Victoria, and will

discuss some of the aims, techniques and common mistakes of monitoring, and how the data can be used to better manage our native orchids.

Tasmanian marine molluscs website

- Simon Grove

Colleagues, I have recently started a website for Tasmanian marine molluscs. If you go to <http://www.molluscs oftasmalia.net> you'll find about 3700 pages of information on Tasmania's marine molluscs.

I'd appreciate any feedback you have on these pages - taxonomic, ecological, ease-of-use, aesthetic, whatever. The site is not yet displaying images correctly, but this technical problem should be sorted out in a few weeks. Because the web-pages are all derived from a set of templates, which compile part of their content from fields of a database that I maintain, it's possible to make global design changes with not very much programming effort.

Note that Tasmanian land and freshwater molluscs could also readily be included in these pages if, a little bit down the track, any experts out there have the inclination to prepare the associated data.

Mystery Creek Cave – new animal?

- Arthur Clarke, Oct 2008



Cave dwelling symphylan, a new “mystery” invertebrate from Ida Bay (Photo: Gavin Brett)

This cave “beastie” recently found by Gavin Brett and Alan Jackson is a symphylan discovered during exploration of the new upper reaches of *Mystery Creek Cave* at Ida Bay. Sometimes referred to as “false centipedes”, these species are generally classified to the Order Symphyla. This particular specimen represents the first record for this cave at Ida Bay and may possibly be a “new” species. The cave-dwelling species are quite small animals and are not commonly seen by most cavers, but when observed are often mistaken to be

millipedes (with long antennae). The symphyllans are one of the numerous groups of many-legged organisms with elongated bodies such as millipedes, centipedes and onychophorans (velvet worms) that are generally lumped into the category of “Multipedes”. For further detail of their natural history, ecology, morphology and classification, check out Bob Mesibov’s website titled: “*Tasmanian Multipedes*” (see reference below).

There are a number of records for collections and/ or observations of these symphyllans, particularly from caves in southern Tasmania. These cave species have all been determined as belonging to the Family Scutigerellidae. Although not formally determined to genus and/ or species level, symphyllans have been previously recorded from caves on the southern and northern side of Marble Hill. Most of the previous records are from *Exit Cave* and other associated caves that form part of this southern draining subterranean hydrological system at Ida Bay; however, symphyllans have also been recorded from northern draining caves near the South Lune Road.

The “new” specimen from *Mystery Creek Cave* is likely to be similar to another locally known cave species: *Hansenilla magna* described from its Type Locality in the entrance chamber of *King George V Cave* at Hastings, but also recorded from the nearby *Wolf Hole*. When originally described in 1996 by Ulf Scheller, this particular troglobitic species from Hastings, which is up to 12 mm head-to-tail and 15-20 mm when you include antennae, was rated as being one of the largest known symphyllans, hence the derivation of its species name as “*magna*”. It is estimated that this new cave dwelling specimen from Ida Bay is also about “15 to 20 mm long” according to Gavin Brett, who photographed the specimen in

Mystery Creek Cave. There are no experienced taxonomists currently working with Symphyla, so we are unlikely to get a positive identification.

References and further reading:

Scheller, U. (1996). A new troglobitic species of *Hansenella* Bagnall (Symphyla: Scutigerellidae) from Tasmania. *Aust. Jnl. Entomology*, 35: 203-207.

Tasmanian Multipedes: Tasmanian Symphyla (website by Bob Mesibov):
<http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/zoology/multipedes/tassymph/symintro.html>

Tinderbox Hills — 5 July 2008

- Excursion Report by Kay Mallinson

Fifteen of us set out on a glorious winter's day along the walking trail. It wasn't long before the birdos found Yellow-throated, Black-headed and Strongbill honeyeaters.

Amongst the kangaroo (*Thameda australis*) and Poa grasses, we sampled the fruits of the prostrate native cranberry (*Astroloma humifusum*). The short steeper sections of the track provided us with an excuse to examine closely *Oleraria viscosa* with its opposite leaves *Dianella tasmanica*, *Bedfordia salicina* and *Gonocarpus teucroides* (raspwort). Lots of bandicoot and potoroo diggings beside the track. The birdos found a family of Blue wrens, New Holland honeyeater, Yellow wattle bird and the Forest raven in the typical *Eucalyptus globulus* community. Eastern rosellas, a female Crescent honeyeater and a Firetail finch were sighted and debate over *Exocarpos stricta* vs. *Leptomira* was settled in favour of the former.

Fungal sightings consisted of a couple of puffballs, a small yellow brown and brown agarics and a large brown bracket fungus. The first pond (well puddle) was iced over and by morning tea time at the second puddle, young James, the advance party, was nowhere in sight. Mark went ahead to catch him while Emma entertained herself by immersing bark and sticks in the pond. Fortunately no pond inhabitants were disturbed – there were none to be seen. Lynne came by, searching under rocks and logs for beetles, completely oblivious to the 11 people sitting on the bank. But she did notice a pair of juvenile metallic skinks (*Niveoscincus metallicus*) hibernating, buried in the soil under a rock.

Some of the party returned after morning tea, missing the discovery of a glow worm and a sighting of a Forty-spotted pardalote. The rest of the party continued along the ridge a bit further then returned to the cars around 1.30pm in brilliant sunshine.

No velvet worms could be found.

| Birds | Green Rosella | <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> |
|---|---|---|
| Yellow Throated Honeyeater | | <i>Gonocarpus teucroides</i> |
| Black Headed Honeyeater | Scarlet Robin | <i>Exocarpos stricta</i> |
| Strongbill Honeyeater | Forty Spotted Pardolote | <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> |
| Brown Thornbill | Spotted Pardolote | <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> |
| Forest Raven | Grey Shrike Thrush | <i>Pimelea humilis</i> |
| Blue Wren | | <i>Stylidium graminifolium</i> |
| New Holland Honeyeater | Plants | <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> |
| Yellow Wattle Bird | <i>Thameda triandra</i> | (Why it is called 'Sagg'?) |
| Eastern Rosella | <i>Poa</i> sp | <i>Festuca</i> sp |
| Crescent Honeyeater | <i>Astroloma humifusum</i> | |
| Firetail Finch | <i>Olearea viscosa</i> | |
| Invertebrates – Lynne Forster | <i>Dianella tasmanica</i> | |
| Beetles | <i>Coripera deplanata</i> , (Tenebrionidae) under rotting log | <i>Isopteron</i> sp1. 6mm (Tenebrionidae) under rotting log |
| <i>Adelium abbreviatum</i> 13mm (Tenebrionidae) under rock | | |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Isopteron</i> sp.2 10mm (Tenebrionidae) under log | Spiders <i>Stiphidium facetum</i> (Stiphidiidae) in rolled bark on ground | elevated rock – ground was wet under rocks flat on the ground, which might explain their scarcity today |
| <i>Paederus angulicollis</i> (Staphylinidae), in rolled bark on ground, defensive with tail arched over head, orange pronotum, green elytra | <i>Miturga</i> sp. probably <i>agelenina</i> (Miturgidae) 20mm female in rolled bark, looks like a large wolf spider | |
| <i>Gonipterus scutellatus</i> (Curculionidae) in Eucalyptus | <i>Breda' jovialis</i> , (Salticidae) under bark of <i>E. globulus</i> | |
| <i>Prosopogmus chalybeipennis</i> 13mm (Carabidae) rotting log | <i>Holoplatys</i> sp. (Salticidae) under bark of <i>E. globulus</i> , black with pair of longitudinal abdominal grooves | |
| <i>Trigonocephalus pacifica</i> 9mm (Carabidae) pair of elytra under bark of <i>E. globulus</i> | <i>Sondra</i> sp. (Salticidae) | |
| <i>Sericesthis nigrolineata</i> 12mm (Scarabaeidae) remains under bark in Huntsman 'nest' | <i>Supnna</i> sp. (Corinnidae) (not <i>S. picta</i>) in rolled bark, front 2 pairs of legs orange | |
| Lissotes sp. female head (Lucanidae) remains under bark in Huntsman 'nest' | <i>Ambicodamus sororius</i> 6mm (Nicodaemidae) under | |

Snails – Kevin Bonham

My previous searches in the Tinderbox Hills area have all been on sandstone or in degraded areas and I haven't found all that much. Along the less disturbed dolerite ridge I did much better, finding ten "native" species (and I suspect there are more to be found in the wetter gullies):

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <i>Caryodes dufresnii</i> | <i>Paralaoma caputspinulae</i> | <i>Elsothera ricei</i> |
| <i>Tasmaphena ruga</i> | <i>Planilaoma luckmanni</i> | <i>Helicarion cuvieri</i> |
| <i>Prolesophanta nelsonensis</i> | " <i>Allocaropa</i> " sp "Barossa Hill" | |
| <i>Paralaoma halli</i> | <i>Pernagera tasmaniæ</i> | |

I put quotes around "native" because I am not sure the common and widespread *P. caputspinulae* is actually a local - it might have been an import from New Zealand. The record of "*Allocaropa*" sp "Barossa Hill" is only its third locality on the western side of the Derwent, but not that surprising as this SE Tas endemic is common in similar habitats on Betsey Island and North Bruny.

We also found a primitive pseudoscorpion and various beetles and met a friendly grey shrike-thrush in the wettest gully

Looking for waders at Orielton Lagoon 5 September 2008

- Excursion report by Els Hayward

Twenty-four members car pooled and cruised around Orielton Lagoon's birding hot spots for a day starting from Banjo's in Sorell. There in the main street we watched two Swamp Harriers herald the start of the outing. On to Cemetery Point to search Suzie Island for the two resident Royal Spoonbills which are now in breeding plumage. On the lagoon were Musk Duck, Great-crested and Hoary-headed Grebes all of which seemed to disappear under the water as soon as a telescope had them in focus for others to see! From a distance and using Bill's expression "the eye of faith", we could make out 10 Eastern Curlew. These were upstaged by an immature Sea Eagle being chased off by a crowd of Kelp Gulls high in the clouds.

Kevin was meanwhile searching (and finding), some snails under the litter below the nearby pine trees as Els was explaining the importance of the area for the remnant patches of *Calocephalus citreus* or lemon beauty heads and *Vittadinia muelleri* or narrow-leaf new-holland daisy.

Then on to Waterview at the end of a laneway between the chicken processing factory and the nursery at Sorell. Here Robin took a gall from a wattle to examine the grub inside and explained the finer points of wasp life cycles. The wasp is likely to be *Trichilogaster trilineata*, which is the one that creates the same looking galls on other wattle species. On land there were Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Ravens, a family of wrens and Little Wattlebirds with their nest in a Callistemon near the track. Near the river mouth there was a Hoary-headed Grebe, plus a few Pied Oystercatchers and Little Pied Cormorants.

But then somebody noticed a peculiar heave of Robin's bosom as "the baby woke up for its feed" so we drove to the Sorell picnic tables by the river for morning tea, watching the baby possum taking its feed and stretching its legs. There Lynne also discovered an egg sack of a Bird Dung Spider, *Celaenia kingergi*, in a nearby tree. It feeds on moths, which it attracts to its outstretched arms by emitting pheromones similar to those of female moths. Two species of spider and a caterpillar were photographed for later identification.

At Orielton Rivulet the Skylarks larked about above us and there was a distant Red-capped Plover but not much else. At Frogmore Creek we crossed the stile, walking down towards the lagoon across the dried up mud flats only to find a few White-fronted Chats and a distant view of a Kelp Gull colony. Two small brown skinks, probably metallic, ran away under the *Disphyma crassifolium*. Standing out at the waters edge there were four Little Egrets and one Great Egret. During a lunch break, Lynne explored a patch of *Acacia genistifolia* near the road and found it was harbouring a very pale green caterpillar, which makes webs in the leaf axils which she is identifying as well as populations of Corylophilid beetles that are 1.2mm and large spider nests. Nearby, Lynne also spotted a lone Meadow Argus butterfly (*Junonia villida*), whose larvae feed on planitain.

Mass beetle strandings – reports of *Adoryphorus couloni* wanted! — Lynne Forster

Thousands of the winter scarab beetles, *Adoryphorus couloni*, had washed in to shore at Bonnington (Barilla Bay) and filled the air with the sound of scouring sand as the females, and possibly the males, buried themselves by the thousands. Bill and Els had noticed an increase in ravens on the spit over the last week and raven scats full of *A. couloni* elytra and exoskeletons was testimony to their consuming interest in these plump sources of proteinⁱ. The ravens had, it seemed, hardly made an impression on beetle numbers. There is a theory that strandings of vespertineⁱⁱ beetles occurs on moonlight nights when disoriented beetles fly towards the moon's reflection and fall into the water where they are unable to fly away once they are weighed down by water trapped by setae. It was also a week ago, when evening temperatures warmed up, that I encountered small numbers of these beetles attracted to lights in the city and crawling along footpaths. After spending two years underground, their adult life above ground is short-lived. Life underground provides no guarantee, however, that they'll survive to adult stage. If female scoliid or thynnid parasitic wasps sniff out the larvae they burrow down to paralyze them then lay an egg.

A. couloni is only one of many species referred to as 'cockchafer'. Although the 15mm beetle appears all black, the common name for it is redheaded pasture cockchafer, in reference to the red head of the larvae. There are in fact many species referred to as cockchafers, including, *Scitala sericans*, *Sericesthis nigra*, *Sericesthis nigrolineata*, *Heteronyx* spp whose larvae gnaw roots of, mostly, grasses, and *Acrossidius tasmaniae* whose larvae eat the leaves of grasses and some weeds (Cathy Young, pers. comm.).

According to DPIW entomologist in Devonport, Lionel Hill (2008)ⁱⁱⁱ, *A. couloni* is a native insect that was restricted to northern Tasmania (and interstate) prior to 1987. Since then it has turned up in the south with mass flights in Hobart and the East Coast and is spreading but hasn't been found at altitudes above 200m. DPIW is mapping its distribution and are interested in any specimens, euthenased by freezing, with location details^{iv}.

Reference to McQuillan *et al.* (2007)^v yielded some interesting information about the biology of this species which I have paraphrased. Larvae take two years to develop but generations overlap. By the end of their first year larvae are eating grass roots, especially of ryegrass and can be a pest of pastures. Their activity slows down during winter, followed by frenzied eating in spring to put on as much weight as possible because as adults this species does not eat. Larvae then dig deeper below roots and create a cell of compacted earth in which they pupate. While adults emerge from their pupae the following autumn, they remain underground through winter while they mature sexually and emerge synchronously at dusk when the weather warms up in spring to mate. There also needs to have been enough rain to soften the

soil so that beetles can dig their way out. Females dig 80 mm deep tunnels at night in which a few eggs are laid at a time, with a total up to 25 eggs per adult.

ⁱ Magpies are partial to scarab grubs. Goodyear, G. and Nicholas, A. (2007) Scarab grubs in northern tableland pastures. DPI, NSW. Available online at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/110213/scarab-grubs-in-northern-tableland-pastures.pdf>

ⁱⁱ =active at dusk

ⁱⁱⁱ DPIW. (2008) DPIW on lookout for Cockchafer beetles , *FarmPoint* , Available online at <<http://www.farmpoint.tas.gov.au/farmpoint.nsf/DPIWonlookoutforCockchaferbeetles/3D5C6C0D39233823CA2573520006B35C>>

^{iv} To Lionel Hill DPIW Entomology, P.O. Box 303, Devonport 7310

or Dr Cathy Young, DPIW Entomology, 13 St Johns Avenue, New Town 7008

^v McQuillan, P., Ireson, J., Hill, L. and Young, C. (2007) *Tasmanian Pasture and Forage Pests*, DPIW, State of Tasmania.

Forestry Tasmania laboratories 10 August 2008

- Excursion report by Anna McEldowney

Peter McQuillan and Lynne Forster had organised an outing to the FT labs in Melville St where they had set up a range of interesting displays relating to forestry insect collections and insect quarantine.

Peter explained about the types of traps used - quarantine traps baited with pheromones and light traps are set up at Tasmanian ports to attract and trap any insects that come in with shipping freight. Insects for the collection are mainly caught in pitfall (or Malaise traps for flying insects) and all insects are kept and pinned for the FT collection database. Beetles are used as indicators as they are better described. When sampling an area all samples are kept and other researchers can borrow them to separate out the insects they may be interested in with all data being sent back to FT for the database. Lynne also showed examples of mimicry and collections from Warra and the Weld plus jewel beetles and moths.

In relation to quarantine Peter told us that British Quarantine Service put a moratorium on the import of *Dicksonia* until a study had been done in Tasmania to determine what insects are in them. He also told us that *Dicksonia* sell in the UK for £100- £600 each, and Tasmania gets \$1.35!

Also of interest was a scat collection displayed alongside photos of the animals responsible.

Many thanks to Peter and Lynne for a fascinating outing for the 20 club members who attended.

East Risdon Nature Reserve 5 Oct 2008

- Excursion report by Amanda Thomson

A big group of 28 including 9 children met at the roundabout on Saunders Drive, East Risdon and walked along the shore around Porter Point to Porter Bay, up the creek bed and over very dry hills in search of orchids. Our leader for the day was Mark Wapstra.

Along the shore we noticed silver beet growing successfully!

A number of scats were observed – pademelon, Bennets wallaby, rabbit, and bandicoot. Orchids were harder to find: *Caladenia fuscata* was the most abundant; later we found a few Nodding greenhoods (*Pterostylis nutans*) in the bottom of the creek bed. On top of the hill we found a few *Caladenia carneae*, one 2-flowered. Later, on the way back a single Tiger orchid - *Diuris sulphurea* was found just off the track.

Most interesting were the rare plants Mark showed us on the hill overlooking EZ! ‘One of the better populations’ of the rare *Olearia hookeri*.

Also *Pomaderris pilifera* subsp. *talpicutica* (with rounded, notched/obcordate leaf apex and a grey-green velvety upper leaf surface) identified and named by Mark who pointed out the differences in leaf shape and texture from *Pomaderris pilifera* subsp. *pilifera* which has a smaller, pointed leaf apex, called an apiculum and lacks a velvety upper leaf surface. Other interesting plants found were: *Philotheeca verrucosa*, *Spyridium eriocephalum*, *Clematis clitoroides* and *Daviesia ulicifolia* subsp. *ruscifolia*.

At lunch in Tommys Bight a dried specimen of the Big-bellied seahorse – *Hippocampus abdominalis* was discovered, as were live introduced seastars *Asterias amurensis*, and we were visited by Ichneumid wasps and a pair of hybrid mallard/black ducks.

An enjoyable morning of discovery; good to be accompanied by the new generation of field naturalists.

Finds included:

Tasmanian grasshopper (*Tasmaniacris tasmaniensis*), juvenile Gumleaf hopper (*Goniaea australasiae*)

A number of wasps (ichneumid) and European, caterpillars and their nests, an excellent specimen of *Zachria spenceri* (huntsman look-alike spider) was found in rocks – interestingly, as ‘Spiders of Tasmania’ reports it is ‘generally found only at high altitudes’ being common on Mount Wellington, Dry’s Bluff and Cumming’s Peak.

General Observations

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Orchids: | Brush possum scats were common, plus a skull | Forest raven |
| <i>Caladenia fuscata</i> , and <i>Caladenia carneae</i> | Bennett's wallaby dropping were common. | Green rosella |
| <i>Diuris sulphurea</i> | Potoroo skull | Sulphur-crested cockatoo |
| <i>Pterostylis nutans</i> | Birds | Mallard x Pacific black duck hybrids swimming on river |
| Mammals | Eastern spinebill | Black swan |
| Numerous rabbit dropping plus a rabbit skull | Grey fantail | Pied cormorant swimming in river |
| | Yellow-throated honeyeater | |

Insects, by Mike Driessen

Tasmanian grasshopper, *Tasmaniacris tasmaniensis*

Gumleaf hopper (5th instar) *Goniaea australasiae*

Six dead Wingless Grasshoppers, *Phaulacridium vittatum* found dead in a spiders web under a rock.
Complete but dried out.

Ichneumonidae wasp - probably Orange caterpillar parasite *Netelia* sp

Snails, by Kevin Bonham

East Risdon Reserve is not somewhere I expect to find much - in four previous visits to the area I've found only three species total - in one case I found nothing at all! The pattern of low diversity and low numbers continued on this trip with only two species found, but while one of them was the common *Caryodes dufresnii*, the other was a very welcome new record. I eventually managed to identify the crumpled remains of a small charopid as *Roblinella* sp. "Flagstaff", a species I discovered in 1998 and have only previously seen in an area of about 1.5 x 3 km around Flagstaff Hill, where it occurs in gullies very similar to the one draining into Tommys Bight. This second locality for the species extends its range by 5 km.

Invertebrates, by Lynne Forster

| | |
|---|---|
| Beetles | <i>Atoichus tasmanicus</i> Tenebrionidae on <i>Eucalyptus pulchella</i> flowers |
| <i>Chaetocnema</i> TFIC sp 01 Chrysomelidae 2.5mm on <i>Acacia dealbata</i> foliage | <i>Gonipterus scutellatus</i> Curculionidae weevil also egg pods on <i>Eucalyptus</i> leaves |
| <i>Macroplectus</i> new species? Staphylinidae: <i>Pselaphinae</i> 1.5mm | The following were in a spider nest under a rock, assuming I reconstructed them correctly! The spider must have been quite big judging by the |
| <i>Adelium abbreviatum</i> Tenebrionidae 10mm | |

size of some of its victims (which included large grasshopper body parts):

Coripera deplanata Tenebrionidae: Lagriinae
12mm

Saragus costatus Tenebrionidae: Heleini pie dish beetle 15mm

Cheiroplatys latipes Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae
22mm

Colpochila obesa Scarabeidae: Melolonthinae
17mm

Spiders

Ambicodamus sororius Nicodamidae 6mm

Storena sp. Zodariidae

Delena cancerides Sparassidae huntsman (female)
23mm

Dysdera crocata Dysderidae introduced predator of wood slaters for which it has elongated chelicerae (under a rock in non-native grass near the road) 13mm

Paramatachia tubicola Dictynidae 7mm
Salticids on rocks by the shore

Other Invertebrates

Eurymelooides bicincta Hemiptera: Cicadellidae
9mm

Cercophonius squama Scorpionidae: Bothriuridae scorpion under rocks

Chaerocaris paganus Hemiptera jewel bug under rotting logs

Chaetophyes compacta Hemiptera: Machaerotidae calcareous tubes on branches of eucalypts

Excursion photos can be seen at <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/ExcnPhotos/ExcnPhotos.htm>.

